

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraphs as indicated.

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Page 1, lines ⁶11 and ¹⁶17.

a1
The present invention relates to a technology of demodulating a received digital-modulated signal and decoding actual data from digital data obtained by the demodulation. More particularly, the invention relates to a decoding method, a decoder, a data receiving system, and a data transmission and receiving system which decodes a data stream, which is coded by using a convolutional code and is multiplexed in time division, using Viterbi decoding.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Recently, as integrated circuits and coding techniques, which can process digital data at a high speed, develop are becoming available. Therefore, analog-system techniques are now replaced by such digital techniques. Particularly, growth television broadcasting service, satellite broadcasting service and the like are being converted to digital broadcasting.

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In order to solve the above problem and achieve the above object, in a decoding method and a decoder of the present invention a signal-to-noise ratio monitor measures the strength of the noise included in the multiplex data, and a comparison unit outputs a post signal when the measured noise strength is equal to or ~~greater~~ greater than a preset value, and an initialization signal generation unit inputs an initialization signal into the Viterbi decoder at timing that decoding of the data streams is started according to the receipt of the post signal so that calculated path metric is initialized.